

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

JANUARY 14, 2003

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura recently approved a supplemental environmental impact report and a master tract map which clear the way for rough grading work to begin on the Ahmanson Ranch development adjacent to western Los Angeles County. I am deeply concerned by many aspects of this project. This project is moving forward based on a traffic study more than 10 years old and despite the lack of traffic mitigation for the County of Los Angeles. A new traffic study should be prepared and recirculated for public comment.

Perchlorate contamination was recently discovered in one of the wells at the Ahmanson Ranch site. This contamination and its potential impact to groundwater have not been adequately addressed in the environmental document approved by the County of Ventura.

These recent approvals will allow rough grading of future land use development areas before any residential lot creation has been approved. Further subdivision of the large parcels created by the master tract map will have to occur before the residential lots are created. By allowing the rough grading to proceed prior to consideration of the ultimate land uses such as the location of individual lots, the decision makers were denied sufficient information upon which to determine if sufficient and appropriate mitigation

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measures are provided.

Additionally, this permanent alteration of the land is being allowed before development of a Habitat Conservation Plan for the San Fernando Spineflower and California Red-legged Frog. Any future project modifications identified in connection with development of the Habitat Conservation Plan necessary to protect these species will be rendered useless if the habitat has already been destroyed through rough grading, and may amount to the improper deferral of mitigation under environmental law.

Additional information, data, documentation and analysis are necessary for the Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura to make an informed decision. The public deserves an environmental document which provides full disclosure as required by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that County Counsel file a lawsuit on behalf of the County of Los Angeles against the County of Ventura and Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura challenging the approval of the Ahmanson Ranch Phase “A” Master Tract Map and challenging the adequacy under CEQA of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report certified in connection with the approval of the Ahmanson Ranch Phase “A” Master Tract Map.